

	In. Lines.		In. Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail . . .	3 7	Length of tarsus	0 10
of tail	3 9	of ear	0 6
from nose to ear	1 0		

Habitat, Bahia Blanca, (September.)

Upon comparing the skull (Pl. 34, fig. 2, *a.*) of *M. elegans* with that of *M. Musculus*, the most evident points of distinction consist in the greater proportionate length of the nasal and frontal bones, and the slenderness of the zygomatic arch in the former animal. Length of skull 11 lines, width 6 lines, distance between front molar and outer side of incisors of upper jaw $3\frac{3}{4}$ lines, length of nasal bones $4\frac{3}{4}$ lines.

The dentition is figured in Pl. 34, figs. 2, *b.* and 2, *c.*

"Whilst bivouacking one night on shore, amongst some sand hillocks, this mouse, with its tail singed, leapt out of a bush which was placed on the fire. Its hind legs appeared long in proportion to the front, and it did not appear to be very active in endeavouring to make its escape."—D.

Mus elegans is about equal in size to *M. Musculus*; the head is larger in proportion than in the latter, the ears are slightly larger, the tail is longer, and so are the tarsi. The large ears, long tail, and comparatively large size of the feet, combined with the greater size of the animal itself, will render it easy to distinguish this species from *M. gracilipes* and *M. bimaculatus*. From the last mentioned animal it moreover differs in having the head larger in proportion, the fur longer, and the colouring of the upper parts of the body somewhat darker. The white fur is almost confined to the under parts of the body, and there is but a small tuft of white hairs behind the ears, whereas in *M. bimaculatus*, the white fur extends considerably on the sides of the body, the outer side of the limbs are white, and there is a large and conspicuous white spot behind each ear.

In *M. elegans* the whole sole of the tarsus and the carpal tubercles are covered with hair. In *Mus bimaculatus* the hinder half of the tarsus only is covered with hair, and in *M. gracilipes* both the hinder half is covered, and there are some scattered hairs extending almost to the two tubercles, which are situated at the base of the longer toes.

The genus *Eligmodontia* of M. F. Cuvier, founded upon a species of mouse from Buenos Ayres, possesses nearly the same characters as the subgenus *Calomys*, established by me in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for February 1837, and which included the animal above described, and two other species (*M. bimaculatus* and *M. gracilipes*). M. Cuvier's genus is distinguished by there being only one large tubercle on the under side of the tarsus, and in having the carpal pad covered with hair as well as the pad of the tarsus. In

these characters our present animal agrees, as it does also in size and in the relative proportions of the tail and tarsus, circumstances which induce me to believe they are identical.

In *M. bimaculatus* and *M. gracilipes* there are six naked tubercles on the under side of the tarsus, and the carpal pad is also naked. In having, however, the tarsus hairy beneath,* in dentition and in colouring, they agree so closely with *M. elegans* that I think they cannot be separated generically.

MUS BIMACULATUS.

PLATE XII.

Mus bimaculatus, Waterh., Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for February 1837, p. 18.

M. vellere pallidè ochraceo, pilis nigricantibus adperso, his ad latera rarioribus; rostri lateribus, notè magnà pone aurem utramque, artubus, corporeque subtilis niveis; auribus mediocribus; caudâ, quoad longitudinem, corpus fere aquante; tarsis ad calcem pilis argenteo-candidis obsitis.

DESCRIPTION.—Upper parts of the body of a very pale ochre colour, the longer hairs, however, are black, and at the apex grayish, and where they are numerous, as on the back and upper surface of the head, they give greater depth to the colouring; the cheeks and sides of the body are of an almost uniform pale, but bright yellow; the sides of the muzzle, the lower half of the cheeks, the lower portion also of the sides of the body, and the whole of the under parts, are pure white—each hair being uniform in colour to the root, and not, as is usually the case, gray at the root. There is likewise a large patch of pure white hairs behind each ear. The feet and tail are of a pale flesh-colour, and furnished with white hairs, with the exception of those on the upper surface of the latter, which are pale brown. The ears are also pale flesh-colour, clothed internally with yellow hairs; externally on the fore part, the hairs are brownish, and on the hinder part, white—they are rather large, and so are the feet. The tail is about equal to the body in length. The hairs of the moustaches are numerous and slender, and most of them are black at the base, and gray at the apex. The hinder half of the tarsus

* In *Mus leucopus* of North America the tarsus is hairy beneath, and in the character of the teeth this animal also agrees with the species above mentioned.